

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is requiring restriction to one of the following groups:

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| Group I: | Claims 1-2 (in part), 4, 28, drawn to compounds of formula I and composition thereof, wherein A and B are each OH. |
| Group II: | Claims 1-2 (in part), 3, 23, drawn to compounds of formula I and composition thereof, wherein A and B together form 1,3-furandione ring. |
| Group III: | Claims 1-2 (in part), drawn to compounds of formula I, wherein A and B together form epoxide. |
| Group IV: | Claims 5, 29, drawn to compounds structure unknown and therefore not classifiable. |
| Group V: | Claims 6, 30, drawn to compounds structure unknown and therefore not classifiable. |
| Group VI: | Claims 7, 31, drawn to compounds structure unknown and therefore not classifiable. |
| Group VII: | Claims 8, 32, drawn to compounds structure unknown and therefore not classifiable. |
| Group VIII: | Claims 9, 12-14, drawn to a process of making compounds of Group I. |
| Group XI: | Claims 10-11, 15, drawn to a process of making compounds of Group III. |
| Group X: | Claims 16, 24, drawn to a process of making compounds of Group IV. |
| Group XI: | Claim 17, drawn to a process of making compounds of Group VI. |
| Group XII: | Claims 18-19, drawn to a process of making compounds of Group II. |
| Group XIII: | Claims 25-26, drawn to a process of making compounds of Group V. |
| Group XIV: | Claim 27, drawn to a process of making compounds of Group VII. |

Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group II, Claims 1-2 (in part), 3 and 23, drawn to compounds of Formula I and compositions thereof, wherein A and B together form a 1,3-furandione ring.

Applicants traverse this requirement for restriction on the grounds that all of the claimed compounds and all of the claimed process steps are connected in the formation of a synthetic pathway to the alkylglycidol carbonate compound Ic (shown on page 5 of the specification) which finds special utility as a cosurfactant in detergent and cleaning formulations known to the prior art.

The compounds of the present invention which are recited in Claim 1 are shown as compounds Ia, Ib, Ic and Id on page 5 of the specification. These compounds can be obtained, according to page 5, lines 18 to 20, by reacting a hydrophobic component, namely 2-propylheptanol, with 1-halo-2,3-epoxypropane, preferably epichlorohydrin or 1-hydroxy-2,3-epoxypropane, and optionally additional reactions subsequent thereto.

A method of preparing the alkylglycidol carbonate of formula Ic is described at page 13, line 19, through page 14, line 11, of the specification whereby 2-propylheptanol is reacted with 1-halo-2,3-epoxypropane to form the compound shown as Ib. This compound is then converted to compound Id by reacting it with a base. Then, hydrolysis of compound Id forms the diol of formula Ia, which can be converted into the alkylglycidol carbonate (Ic) by reaction with phosgene.

Therefore, the reaction scheme described on pages 13 and 14 of this application clearly shows that the Applicants' inventions recited in the presently pending set of claims are connected by the fact that they are intermediate products in the synthesis of the compound Ic. For this reason, it is argued that the compounds recited in Claim 1 are linked so as to form a single general inventive concept which is a requirement of unity of invention.

Moreover, the MPEP at § 803 states as follows:

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.”

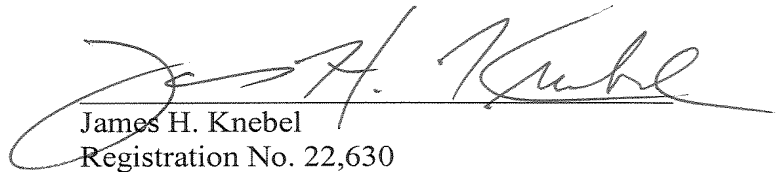
Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all of the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



James H. Knebel
Registration No. 22,630

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)